

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A tool having a quick-change mechanism for replacing tool implements on a shaft, post or handle comprising:

a shaft, post or handle having a flange and a threaded connector;

a tool implement adapted to be received on the shaft, post or handle adjacent the flange;

a stabilizing washer adapted to be received on the shaft, post or handle adjacent the work implement; and

a threaded fastener adapted to be threaded onto the threaded connector of the shaft, post or handle whereby the tool implement and the stabilizing washer are retained on the shaft, post or handle by the fastener, and wherein the tool implement and the stabilizing washer are configured to allow removal of the tool implement without removing the fastener from the shaft, post or handle.

2. (Original) The tool of claim 1, wherein the stabilizing washer has a non-circular profile, and wherein the tool implement includes an aperture configured to allow the threaded fastener and the stabilizing washer to pass through when the tool implement and the stabilizing washer are arranged in a first conformation and prevent the threaded fastener and the stabilizing washer from passing through when the tool implement and the stabilizing washer are rotated with respect to one another into another conformation.

3. (Currently Amended) The tool of claim 1, wherein the stabilizing washer has a central hub portion and a plurality of arms that extend radially outwardly from the hub portion, and wherein the tool implement includes an aperture having a circular portion and a plurality of ~~[[arm]]~~ arms extending outwardly from the circular portion, the circular portion and the arms of the aperture being configured to allow the stabilizing washer and fastener to pass through the aperture when the tool implement is in a first orientation with respect to the stabilizing washer and prevent the stabilizing washer and fastener from passing through the aperture when the tool implement is in another orientation with respect to the stabilizing washer.

4. (Original) The tool of claim 1, wherein the threaded connector of the shaft, post or handle is an externally threaded portion and the threaded fastener is a nut receivable on the threaded portion of the shaft, post or handle.

5. (Currently Amended) The tool of claim 1, wherein the threaded ~~connector~~ connector of the shaft, post or handle is an internally threaded bore and the threaded fastener is a bolt receivable in the threaded bore.

6. (Original) The tool of claim 1, wherein the tool implement is a circular saw blade.

7. (Original) The tool of claim 1, wherein the tool implement is a lawnmower blade.

8. (Currently Amended) The tool of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, wherein the tool implement includes at least one additional ~~circular~~ aperture, and the stabilizing washer includes at least one pin receivable in the ~~circular~~ additional aperture to prevent relative movement of the stabilizing washer with respect to the tool implement when the fastener is tightened.

9. (New) A tool having a quick-change mechanism for replacing tool implements on a shaft, post or handle comprising:

a shaft, post or handle having a threaded connector;

a tool implement received on the shaft, post or handle, the tool implement defining an aperture having a central portion and a plurality of arms extending from the central portion;

a one-piece stabilizing washer having a central hub and a plurality of arms extending from the central hub; and

a threaded fastener threaded to the threaded connector of the shaft, post or handle;

the aperture defined in the tool implement being configured to allow the arms of the stabilizing washer and the threaded fastener to pass through when the stabilizing washer is in at least a first orientation relative to the tool implement and to allow engagement of the arms of the stabilizing washer with the tool implement when the stabilizing washer is in at least a second orientation relative to the tool implement, whereby the tool implement may be securely retained on the shaft, post or handle and removed from the shaft, post or handle, as desired, without removing the threaded fastener from the threaded connection of the shaft, post or handle.